

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-11 EUR-12 DHA-02 AID-05 CU-02

SIL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 LAB-04 EB-07

ARAE-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 ORM-02 /115 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2581

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CU, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON ANGOLA SITUATION

1. DURING LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE ON JANUARY 20 IN HONOR OF AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOHERTY, PRESIDENT ODUBER VOLUNTEERED HIS CONCERN OVER CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT HE IS FOLLOWING THIS SITUATION CLOSELY. ODUBER EXPLAINED THAT HIS CONCERN IS TWO-FOLD: (A) IF CUBA IS FREELY DISPOSED TO DEPLOY ITS MILITARY STRENGTH IN DISTANT ANGOLA, MIGHT IT NOT READILY DO THE SAME IN NEARBY COSTA RICA OR ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF?; AND (B) IF THAT HAPPENED, WOULD THE U.S. DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT? IN OTHER WORDS, IS THE U.S. STILL RESOLVED TO HELP ITS FRIENDS?

2. AMBASSADOR ASSURED ODUBER U.S. WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT PROMPT MEASURES WITHIN INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN THIS EVENTUALITY.

DOHERTY ADDED HIS COMPLETELY PERSONAL VIEW THAT, WHILE ANGOLA IS FAR AWAY FROM THE CONCERNS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN PUBLIC, ANY OVERT CUBAN INCURSIONS INTO A

FRIENDLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WOULD IMMEDIATELY
AROUSE STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE UNITED STATES AND
THAT THE USG WOULD TAKE DIRECT ACTION.

3. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT CASTRO'S
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA REFLECTS BOTH HIS DESIRE TO
PROJECT CUBA AS A REVOLUTIONARY WORLD POWER AND HIS
LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE REPERCUSSIONS IN LATIN
AMERICA. NEVERTHELESS, ODUBER'S OPINION IS THAT THIS
ACTION MAY DISAFFECT MANY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE,
ESPECIALLY THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING STATES IN THE
CARIBBEAN.
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